Permission ti> international airlines to operate from Trivandrum

718. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Ministetr of *CIVIL* AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for which Government are not allowing international airlines, other than Air India, to operate ibrough Trivandrum;

(b) whether theire is going to be an explosion of tourism in the next decades; if so, whether Government would consi dered changing their policy for fuller ex ploitation of the tourist potential of Kerala; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof.'

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ 'PATIL): (a) to (c) Government have not allowed larg.' scale international operations to Trivandrnm because Trivandrum has not been declared as an international airport and only limited international operations ar; penni^sible from Trivandrum.

Toarism infrastructure in the country

719. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will be Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleaseld to state:

(a) to what extent the country has been able to attract the fast increasing flow of international tourists, giving details for the last hree years;

(b) what are the plans undeir consideration for creation of adequate infrastructure to reccive tourists whose quantum is expected to double by the end of this country; and

(c) what are the details of steps taken ia this regard by different States, with the cooperation of the centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL):(a) The number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last 3 years are give below:

Year	Number (including the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh)
1985	. 1,259,384 .
1986	1,451,076
1987	. I,484,290

(b) and (c) Plans for the development of tourism infrastructure is generally tii-ken up by State Governments through the assistance of Central Government. This includes construction of Yatri Niwases, construction of Yatrikas at pilgrim centres, development of beach resorts, improv-ment of facilities for skiing, mountaineering, trekking and adventure; tourism augmentation of transport facilities, provision of way side facilities on highways and development of tourist facilities along travel circuits.

Employment potential of tourism industry

720. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleaseld to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism *is* going to be the most important inJiu-try in the world by the turn of the Century with big employment potential;

(b) the number of foreign tourists which India received during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of people engaged ia different aspects of tourism industry in India State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Tourism has already become one of the major industries of the world in terms of foreign exchange earning. The industry is also having large employment potential.

(b) The number of fore/ign tourists wh'-vilsisted India during the last 5 year[1]-